

1987

S-363
Rock M. E. Church
Chance
public worship

1900

The Rock Creek Methodist Episcopal Church is a prominent architectural landmark in this watermen's community located east of Deal Island. Similar to other contemporary churches as St. Johns on Deal Island, Rock Creek church has retained most of its original exterior and interior finishes. The three-story bell tower is an especially distinctive Gothic Revival feature with its arched ~~wood~~ belfry of wooden tracery. The interior is equally distinctive with a semicircular sanctuary arrangement, beaded board wainscoting and a beaded matched board ceiling. Construction of this church is specifically documented by a marble datestone. Dated to 1900, the church was erected by W. J. Johnson, whose name is inscribed on the stone.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Propertyhistoric name Rock Creek Methodist Episcopal Churchother names/site number S-363**2. Location**street & number Deal Island Road (MD 363) N/A ☐ not for publicationcity, town Chance N/A ☐ vicinitystate Maryland code MD county Somerset code 039 zip code 21821**3. Classification**

Ownership of Property

- ☒ private
☐ public-local
☐ public-State
☐ public-Federal

Category of Property

- ☒ building(s)
☐ district
☐ site
☐ structure
☐ object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing
<u>1</u>	<u>1</u> buildings
<u> </u>	<u> </u> sites
<u> </u>	<u> </u> structures
<u> </u>	<u> </u> objects
<u>1</u>	<u>1</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing:

N/ANumber of contributing resources previously
listed in the National Register 0**4. State/Federal Agency Certification**

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this
☒ nomination ☐ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the
National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.
In my opinion, the property ☒ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. ☐ See continuation sheet.

Signature of certifying official STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICERDate 9/25/90

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property ☐ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. ☐ See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

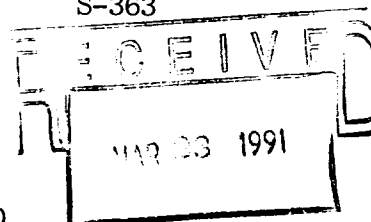
I, hereby, certify that this property is:

- ☐ entered in the National Register.
☐ See continuation sheet.
☐ determined eligible for the National
Register. ☐ See continuation sheet.
☒ determined not eligible for the
National Register.
☐ removed from the National Register.
☐ other, (explain:)

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD



NRIS Reference Number: 90001718 Date Listed: 11/2/90

Rock Creek Methodist Episcopal Church
Property Name:Somerset MD
County: State:

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

Multiple Name

This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.

for Patrick Andrews
Signature of the Keeper

2/1/91
Date of Action

=====

Amended Items in Nomination:

The nomination includes inconsistent information regarding the roofing material of the church. Section 7 of the form lists the roof as asphalt, while the text says it is slate. Ron Andrews with the MD SHPO clarified this and says that the roof is slate. The form is now officially amended to include this information.

DISTRIBUTION:

National Register property file
Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)

6. Function or Use

S-363

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

RELIGION/religious structure

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

RELIGION/religious structure

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

GOTHIC

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation BRICK

walls ALUMINUM

roof ASPHALT

other WOOD

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

DESCRIPTION SUMMARY:

Rock Creek Methodist Episcopal Church, built in 1900, is a cross-plan church supported by a continuous common bond brick foundation. The side walls are covered with aluminum siding over weatherboards. The gable ends remain unaltered with exposed layers of fishscale shingles. Rising in the southwest corner of the cross plan is a three-story bell tower capped by a pyramidal spire. The south (main) elevation is an asymmetrical facade with a gable-front and the adjacent entrance and bell tower. The facade has a tripartite Gothic arched colored glass window with narrow lancet windows to each side. In the sanctuary the pews are arranged on a semi-circular plan which is echoed by a semi-circular altar rail. The pews date from the turn of the century and have decorative ends. The walls are finished with beaded board wainscoting and plaster. Located against the south wall are three rolltop tambour partitions that open in case a larger sanctuary is needed. Hanging from the ceiling are a pair of turn of the century chandeliers. Standing to the west of the church is a single-story ell-shaped frame church hall built in 1928.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Rock Creek Methodist Episcopal Church
Somerset County
Maryland

S-363

Section number 7 Page 1

GENERAL DESCRIPTION:

Rock Creek Methodist Episcopal Church stands on the north side of State Route 363, Deal Island Road, in the small community of Chance, Somerset County, Maryland. The Gothic Revival building faces south with the principal gable oriented on an east/west axis.

Built in 1900, the cross-plan church is supported by a continuous common bond brick foundation, and the side walls are covered with aluminum siding over weatherboards. However, the gable ends have remained unaltered with exposed layers of fishscale shingles. Rising in the southwest corner of the cross plan is a three-story bell tower capped by a pyramidal spire. The spire and the roof to the church are covered with slate. Standing to the west of the church is a single-story ell-shaped frame church hall built in 1928.

The south (main) elevation is an asymmetrical facade with a gable-front and the adjacent entrance and bell tower to the west. Fixed in the southwest corner of the foundation is the marble datestone, which is inscribed, "Rock Creek M.E. Church, 1900, W.J. Johnson, builder." The gabled facade has a tripartite Gothic arched colored glass window with narrow lancet windows to each side. A slender brick stove stack rises from the east roof slope. The south tower elevation has a Gothic arched wooden tracery on each side. The pyramidal roofed spire is covered by a metal cap.

The west side of the church is finished in the same manner as the south side with a tripartite window and flanking lancet windows. The upper gable is sheathed with fishscale shingles, and a narrow brick stove stack rises through the south roof slope.

The north side of the main building is distinguished by a shorter gable roof apse. Pairs of lancet windows pierce each side, and the north wall of the apse is marked by a diamond colored glass window. The sides of the apse are lighted by colored glass lancet windows as well.

The east side of the church has a tripartite window with flanking lancets, as well as a gable roofed section that extends from the southern leg of the plan. A narrow brick stove stack rises from the north slope of the roof, and the sides are pierced by a lancet shaped door and windows.

See Continuation Sheet 7.2

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Rock Creek Methodist Episcopal Church
Somerset County
Maryland

S-363

Section number 7 Page 2

The sanctuary has not been significantly altered since the turn of the century. The pews are arranged on a semi-circular plan which is echoed by a semi-circular altar rail. The pews date from the turn of the century and have decorative ends. The walls are finished with beaded board wainscoting and plaster. Repeating the use of narrow beaded boards, the ceiling is finished with a matched board pattern. Located against the south wall are three rolltop tambour partitions that open in case a larger sanctuary is needed. A Gothic arched nine-panel door opens into the adjacent Sunday School room on the east side of the main room. Hanging from the ceiling are a pair of turn of the century chandeliers.

The church hall, erected in 1928, stands on the west side of a ditch that divides the property. The aluminum sided ell-shaped frame building is supported by a rusticated block foundation, and it is covered with a medium sloped asphalt tile roof. Victorian paneled doors open through the south gable end, and the building is lighted by two-over-two sash windows.

8. Statement of Significance

S-363

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

☐ nationally ☐ statewide ☒ locallyApplicable National Register Criteria ☐ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ DCriteria Considerations (Exceptions) ☒ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

1900

Significant Dates

1900

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

Johnson, W.J., builder

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

SIGNIFICANCE SUMMARY:

Rock Creek Methodist Episcopal church is an important example of the rural Gothic churches built in Somerset County for the Methodist church in the closing decades of the nineteenth century. As seen in the Rock Creek church, these buildings commonly have complex Tee and cross plans characterized by corner bell towers, steeply pitched roofs, elaborate tripartite Gothic windows on the principal facade, and elaborately decorated interiors with turnings and panels. Rock Creek's significance is that it is one of the more elaborate examples built and still intact. Distinctive also is the semicircular sanctuary arrangement. In terms of age, this church is one of the last of the Gothic Methodist churches built in the county.

☒ See continuation sheet 8.1For HISTORIC CONTEXT and MARYLAND COMPRE-
HENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN data.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Rock Creek Methodist Episcopal Church
Somerset County
Maryland

S-363

Section number 8 Page 1

HISTORIC CONTEXT:

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN DATA

Geographic Organization: Eastern Shore

Chronological/Developmental Period(s):

Industrial/Urban Dominance A.D. 1870-1930

Prehistoric/Historic Period Theme(s):

Architecture/Landscape Architecture/Community Planning

Resource Type:

Category: Building

Historic Environment: Rural

Historic Function(s) and Use(s):

RELIGION/religious structure

Known Design Source: Unknown

See Continuation Sheet 8.2

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Rock Creek Methodist Episcopal Church
Somerset County
Maryland

S-363

Section number 8 Page 2

HISTORIC CONTEXT:

The Rock Creek Methodist Episcopal Church is a prominent architectural landmark in this watermen's community east of Deal Island. Similar to other contemporary churches, including St. John's on Deal Island, Rock Creek has retained most of its original exterior and interior finishes. The three-story bell tower with its arched belfry of wooden tracery is an especially distinctive Gothic Revival feature. The interior is equally distinctive with a semicircular sanctuary arrangement, beaded board wainscoting, and a beaded matched board ceiling. Construction of this church is specifically documented by a marble datestone reading 1900. The church was erected by W.J. Johnson, whose name is inscribed on the stone.

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties: Somerset County. Maryland Historical Trust, Annapolis.

Somerset County Land Records, Courthouse, Princess Anne, Maryland.

Touart, Paul Baker. Somerset: An Architectural History. Published for Maryland Historical Trust and Somerset County Historical Trust, 1990, 319-336.

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- ☐ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- ☐ previously listed in the National Register
- ☐ previously determined eligible by the National Register
- ☐ designated a National Historic Landmark
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

☐ See continuation sheet

Primary location of additional data:

- ☒ State historic preservation office
- ☐ Other State agency
- ☐ Federal agency
- ☐ Local government
- ☐ University
- ☐ Other

Specify repository: _____

10. Geographical Data

Area of property 1.5 Acres

USGS Quad: Deal Island, Maryland

UTM References

A

1	8
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4	1	7	9	6	0
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4	2	2	5	5	9	0
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Zone Easting Northing

C

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B

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Zone Easting Northing

D

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☐ See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

☒ See continuation sheet 10.1

Boundary Justification

☒ See continuation sheet 10.1

11. Form Prepared By

Name/title Paul Baker Touart, Architectural Historian

organization Somerset County Historical Trust date 10/13/87

street & number P.O. Box 5 telephone (301)651-1094

city or town Westover state Maryland zip code 21871

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Rock Creek Methodist Episcopal Church
Somerset County
Maryland

S-363

Section number 10 Page 1

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION:

All that lot or parcel of land situated in Tangier Election District, Somerset County, Maryland, beginning for the same at the southeast corner of the church lot along Deal Island Road, State Route 363, and heading in a northwesterly direction for approximately 225 feet to the corner of the church lot that is a common corner with the Thomas H. Price land, thence by and with the line separating the Price land with the church lot in a southwesterly direction for approximately 337 feet to a point being the south west corner of the church lot, thence in a southeasterly direction for 225 feet to a point along the north side of Deal Island Road, thence in a northeasterly direction for approximately 337 feet by and with the aforesaid road to the place of beginning, containing 1.5 acres more or less.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION:

The property includes only the rural lot upon which the resource stands.

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

Survey No. S-363
Magi No. 2003635608
DOE ☐ yes ☐ no

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Rock Creek M.E. Church

and/or common

2. Location

street & number North Side of Maryland 363, Deal Island Road ☐ not for publication

city, town Chance ☐ vicinity of congressional district First

state Maryland county Somerset

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Trustees of Rock Creek Church c/o Reverend Harry Patterson

street & number telephone no.:

city, town Chance state and zip code MD 21816

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Somerset Clerk of Court liber

street & number Somerset County Courthouse folio

city, town Princess Anne state MD 21853

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date ☐ federal ☐ state ☐ county ☐ local

depository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Survey No. S-363

Condition		Check one	Check one	
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved	date of move _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

Rock Creek Methodist Episcopal Church stands on the north side of Maryland 363 (Deal Island Road) in the small community of Chance, Somerset County, Maryland. The Gothic Revival building faces south with the principal gable oriented on an east/west axis.

Built in 1900, the cross-plan frame church is supported by a continuous common bond brick foundation, and the side walls are covered with aluminum siding. However, the gable ends were unaltered with a layer of fishscale shingles. Rising in the southwest corner of the cross plan is a three story bell tower capped by a pyramidal spire. The spire and the roof to the church are covered with slate. Standing to the west of the church is a single-story ell-shaped frame church hall built in 1928.

The south (main) elevation is an asymmetrical facade with a gabled front and Gothic arched double door entrance in the base of the tower. Fixed in the southwest corner of the foundation is the marble datestone inscribed, "Rock Creek M.E. Church, 1900, W.J. Johnson, builder." The gabled facade has a tri-partite Gothic arched colored glass window with lancet windows to each side. A narrow brick stove stack rises from the east roof slope. The south tower elevation has a double door entrance on the first floor topped by a colored glass transom. The mid-level is sheathed with fishscale shingles and pierced by a round colored glass window. The belfry is framed by four square posts which flank Gothic arched wooden tracery on each side. The pyramidal roofed spire is covered by a metal cap.

The west side of the church is finished in the same manner as the south side with a tri-partite window and flanking lancets. The upper gable is sheathed with fishscale shingles, and a narrow brick stove stack rises through the south slope of the roof.

The north side of the main building is distinguished by a shorter gabled roof apse. Pairs of lancet windows pierce each side, and the apse is lighted by a diamond colored glass window. The sides of the apse are also pierced with lancet windows.

The east side of the church has a tri-partite window with flanking lancets, as well as a gable roof section that extends from the southern leg of the cross plan. A narrow brick stove stack rises from the north slope of the roof, and the sides are pierced by a lancet shaped door and windows.

The sanctuary has not been significantly altered since the turn of the century. The pews are arranged in a semi-circular plan which is repeated with the semi-circular altar rail. The pews date from the turn of the century and have decorative ends. The walls are finished with beaded board wainscoting and plaster. The ceiling is finished with a pattern of matched beaded boards. Located against the south wall are three rolltop tambour partitions that open in case the sanctuary needs to be enlarged. A Gothic arched nine-panel door opens into the adjacent Sunday School room on the east side. Hanging from the ceiling are two turn of the century chandeliers.

8. Significance

Survey No. S-363

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1900 Builder/Architect W.J. Johnson

check: Applicable Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D
and/or

Applicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

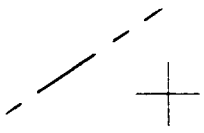
Level of Significance: ☐ national ☐ state ☐ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

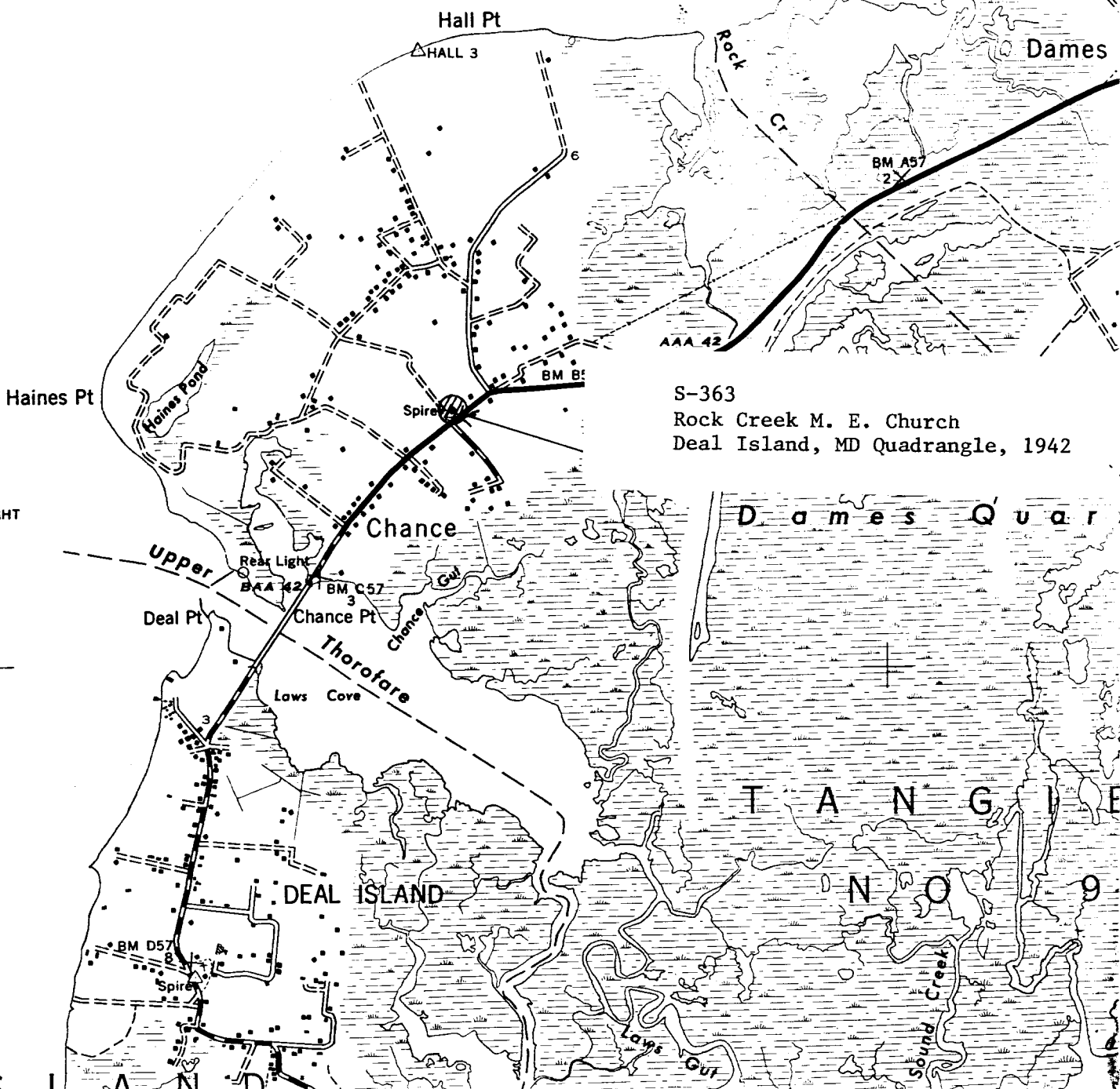
The Rock Creek Methodist Episcopal Church is a prominent architectural landmark in this watermens' community located east of Deal Island. Similar to other contemporary churches such as St. Johns on Deal Island, Rock Creek church has retained most of its original finishes aside from a layer of aluminum siding. The three-story bell tower is an especially distinctive Gothic Revival feature with its arched belfry of wooden tracery. The interior is equally distinctive with a semicircular sancturay arrangement, beaded board wainscoting and a beaded matched board ceiling.

Description (continued)

The church hall, erected in 1928, stands on the west side of a ditch that divides the property. The aluminum sided ell-shaped frame building is supported by a rusticated block foundation and covered with a medium sloped asphalt tile roof. Victorian paneled doors open through the south gable end, and the building is lighted by two-over-two sash windows.

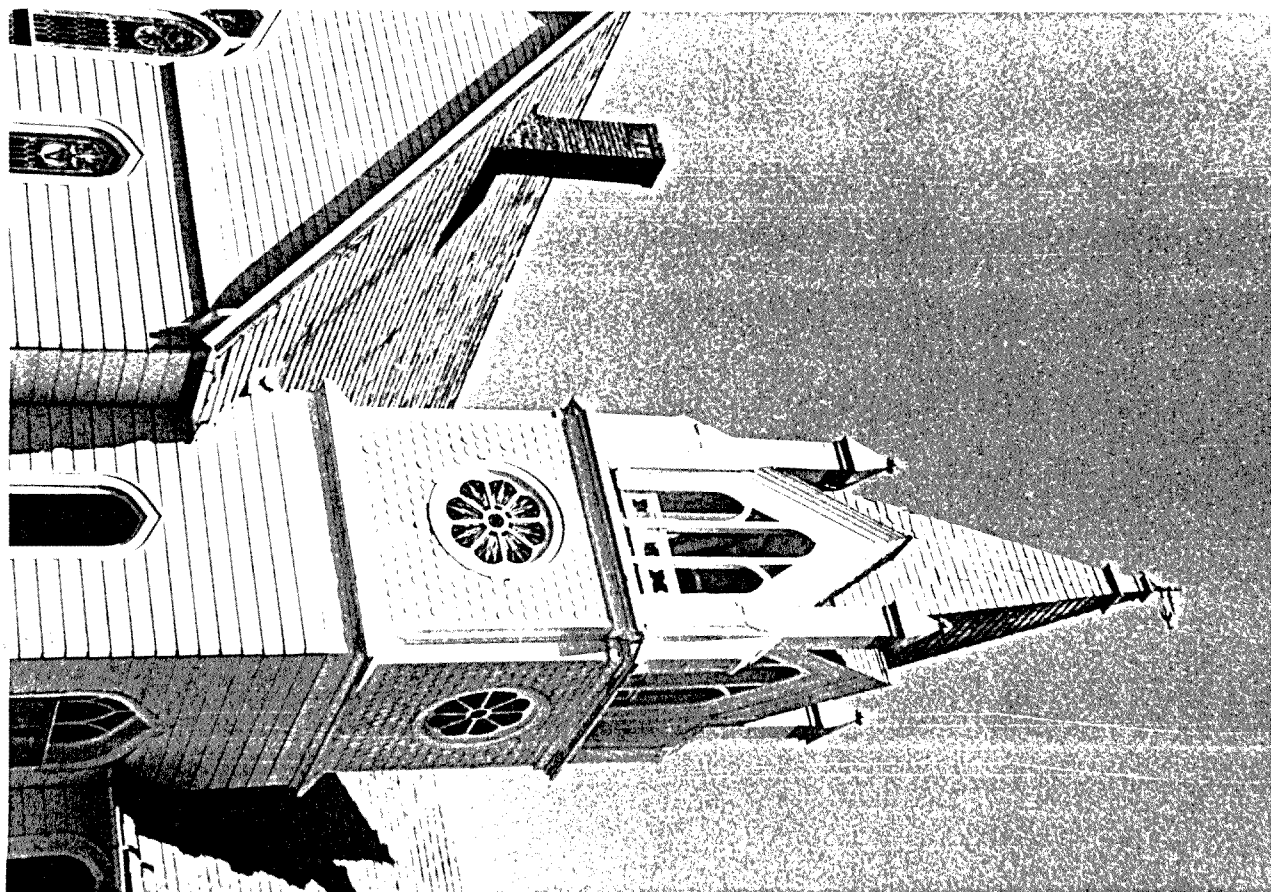


HAINES POINT LIGHT



S-363
Rock Creek M. E. Church
Deal Island, MD Quadrangle, 1942

S-363



Rock Creek M.E. Church
Chance, Somerset Co., MD
South Elevation

S-363

6/88 Paul Towark, Photographer
Nec. / MD Hist. Trust

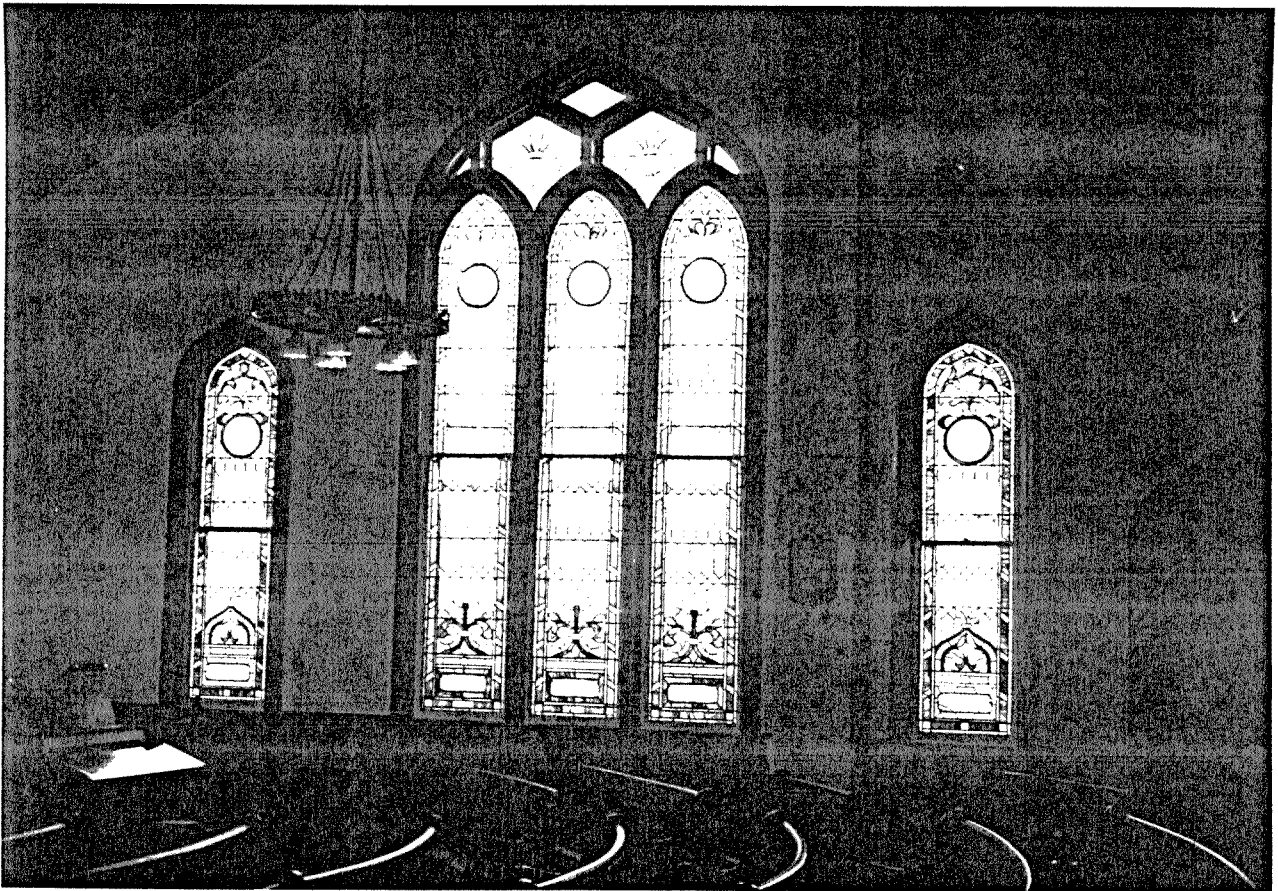
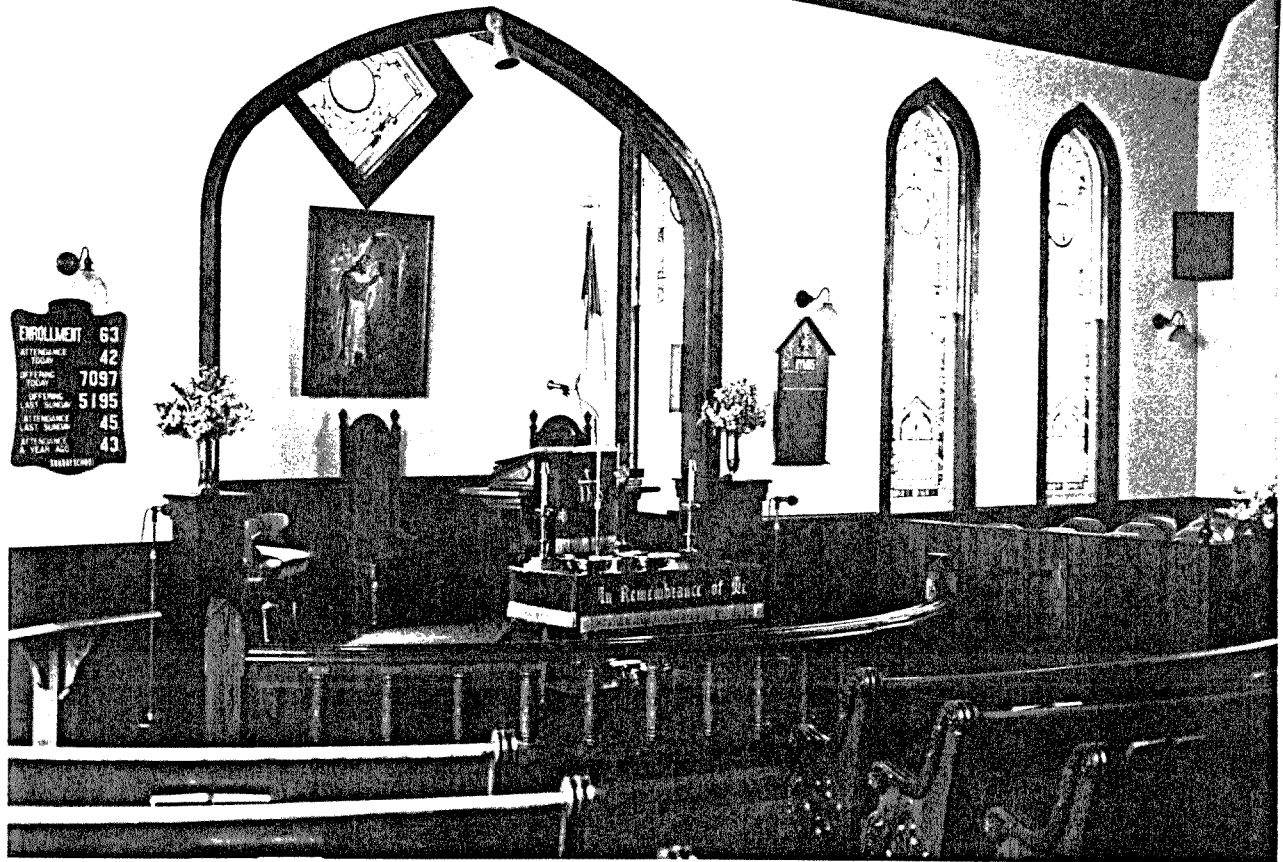
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Rock Creek M.E. Church
Chance, Somerset Co., MD
Steeple - Southwest Elev.

S-363

6/88 Paul Towark, Photographer
Nec. / MD Hist. Trust

2/5



St Peter's M. E. Church

S-289

Hopewere vic. Somerset Co. , MD.

INTERIOR - WEST WALL

5/88, Paul Toward, PHOTOGRAPHED

NEG. / MD HIST. TRUST

3/5

Rock Creek M. E. Church

S-363

CHANCE, SOMERSET Co. , MD.

6/88 Paul Toward, PHOTOGRAPHED

NEG. / MD HIST. TRUST

INTERIOR - EAST WINDOW

4/5

S-363



Rock Creek M. E. Church

S-363

Chambers, Somerset Co., Md.

Church Hall - Southeast elevation

6/88 Paul Touart, Photographer

Neg. / Md. Hist. Trust

5/5





Rock Creek M. E. Church
Chance, Somerset Co. Md.
West Elevation
6/86, Paul Touart, Photographer
Neg/Md. Historical Trust

S-363



Rock Creek M.E. Church

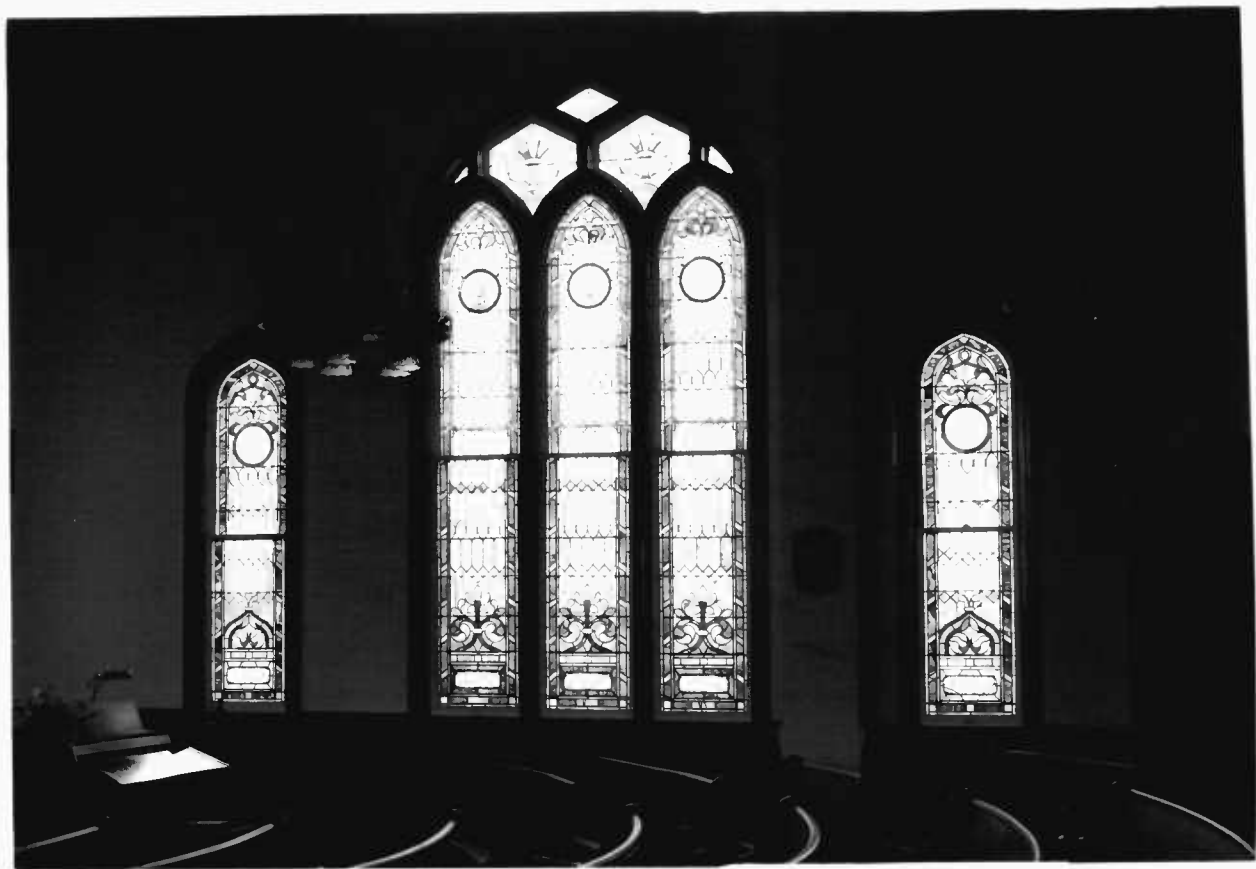
S-363

Interior

Chance, Somerset County, Maryland

6/86 Photographer - Paul Touart

Neg/Md. Historical Trust



Rock Creek M. E. Church

S-363

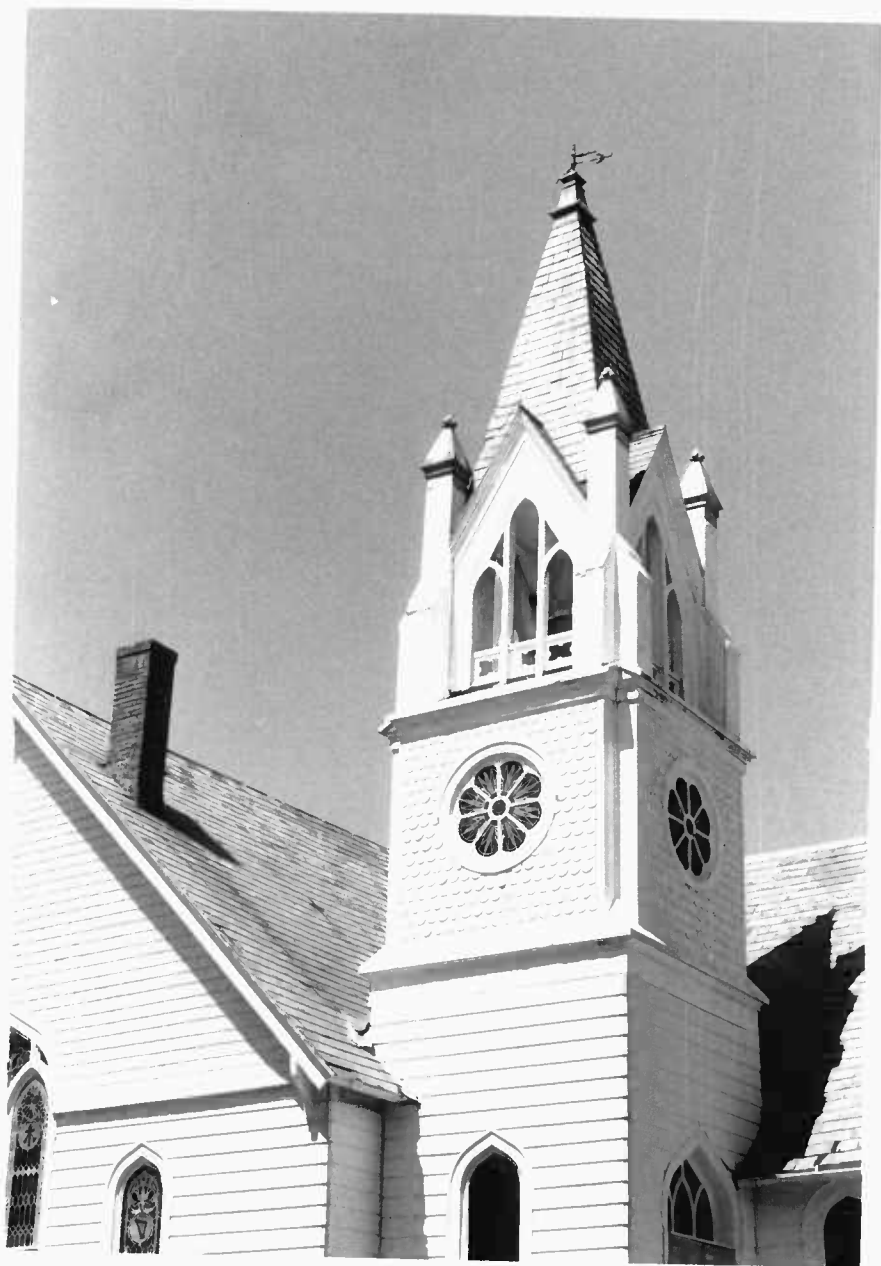
Chance. Somerset Co. Md.

Interior

6/86, Paul Touart, Photographer

Neg/Md. Historical Trust





Rock Creek M.E. Church
Chance, Somerset County, Maryland
Steeple
6/86 Photographer - Paul Touart
Neg/Md. Historical Trust

S-363



S-363

ROCK CREEK M. E. CHURCH

Chance, Somerset County, Maryland

6/86, Paul Touart photographer

Negative/MD Historical Trust

Church Hall